

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 5 and 7-23 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 10 and 19 are amended and claim 3 is canceled.

Page 5 of the Office Action indicates that claims 3 and 10-18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Item 6 of the Office Action rejects claims 19-23 under 35 USC §103(a) over U.S. Patent 5,525,302 to Astle.

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the features of allowable claim 3. Thus, claim 1, and claims 4, 5 and 7-9 which depend from claim 1, are allowable.

Allowable claim 10 is rewritten in independent form. Thus, claim 10, and claims 11-18 which depend from claim 10, are allowable.

Claim 19 is amended to recite a plurality of switches of the controller provide fluid signals to the addressing valves to control the addressing valves to open or close a corresponding passageway and to control flow through the passageways. Claim 19 also recites that the plurality of switches are adapted to provide signals to the addressing valves to individually control flow for each needle. The addressing valves of claim 19 share a common feature with the membrane valves of allowable claims 1 and 10. That is, the claimed addressing valves of claim 19 receive fluid signals from the claimed switches to open or close a corresponding passageway of a plunger, and are controllable to individually control flow through the passageways. Astle does not disclose such an arrangement, and in fact, is incapable of individually controlling individual passageways for plungers. Instead, Astle is capable only of opening and closing all of the passageways for the pistons 50 by moving a clamping frame 144 to simultaneously pinch all of the tubes 82 between clamping bars 146 and an anvil 142. See col. 7, lines 34-45 of Astle. Applicant submits that nothing in Astle would suggest to one of ordinary skill to individually control plunger passageways, much less do so through the use of fluid signals to addressing valves associated with each

passageway. Accordingly, applicant submits that claim 19, and claims 20-23 which depend from claim 19, are allowable. Withdrawal of the 103 rejection of claims 19-23 is requested.

In view of the foregoing, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: December 12, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

Electronic signature: /Robert E. Hunt/
Robert E. Hunt
Registration No.: 39,231
WOLF, GREENFIELD & SACKS, P.C.
Federal Reserve Plaza
600 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02210-2206
(617) 646-8000